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COUNTY EXECUTIVE FINLEY OPPOSES WCA SUPPORT OF STATE SENATE BUDGET

Waukesha – Waukesha County Executive Daniel M. Finley is voicing his opposition of the Wisconsin County Association decision to support the State Senate budget adjustment plan.

“While certain proposals within the plan are of benefit to counties and other local units of government, the entire plan is certainly not in the best interest of the estate and our taxpayers,” said Finley. The following areas of concern were cited by Finley.

- ❖ The Senate plan leaves the State, and ultimately local governments, in the worst long term financial shape. Then on -partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimate that the structural deficit under the Senate plan will be \$1.26 billion.
- ❖ The Senate plan uses the entire tobacco settlement as a one -time funding source to address the stated deficit. Other plans use tobacco funds to one extent or another but they either use less or plan to repay the funds over time. This entire practice is a flagrant violation of the recommendations recently proffered by Moody’s.
- ❖ The Senate recklessly includes an early retirement package for state employees. As we have seen from prior early retirement packages, the cost to local government is extremely high. Furthermore, the savings they suggest they will realize may not materialize, as is clearly evident from the Milwaukee County pension fiasco.
- ❖ The Senate plan is full of non -fiscal items that should not be in the budget. In fairness, the other plans also include numerous non -fiscal items and they should also be taken to task for their inclusion.

“I agree that we should support specific budget provisions in each plan to protect the interests of local government and the taxpayer,” said Finley. “However, it is irresponsible to support an entire budget plan that does not do both.”